

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-56 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12, 14-21, 25, 28-42 and 47-52 are allowed. Claims 13, 24, 43, 44 and 52-55 have been rejected. Claims 22, 23, 26, 27 and 56 are objected to. By this amendment, the objected to claims 22, 23, 26 and 56 have been placed in independent form. It is submitted that in view of the finding of allowable subject matter in these claims, they are now in condition for allowance.

Turning to the rejection of claims 13, 24, 43, 44 and 53-55, the Examiner rejects claims 13, 43, 44 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Chen, U.S. Patent No. 5,363,020. The Examiner further rejects claims 24 and 54-55 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen.

Regarding claim 13, claim 13 includes an inverter circuit including a single controllably conductive device and an inductor connected in series with the controllably conductive device and to input terminals of the inverter circuit.

Chen neither teaches nor discloses either an inverter circuit having a single controllably conductive device, or an inductor connected in series with a single controllable conductive device in an inverter circuit.

In fact, Chen discloses an inverter circuit 32 (figures 1,2) having at least two controllable conductive devices, namely, switches 90 and 92. (Column 7, line 29 to line 45.)

With regard to claim 43, Chen neither discloses nor teaches a valley fill circuit. Rather, Chen discloses a power factor controller 27, which is a boost section (see Fig. 2, and column 6, line 62 through column 7, line 25).

Assuming, solely for the sake of argument, that the power factor controller 27 is a valley fill circuit, the bulk capacitor 83 is not charged solely from a winding in the inverter circuit 32 to charge the bulk capacitor 83 to a predetermined voltage level, as required by claim 43.

In fact, the inverter circuit 32 of Chen has no windings. Further, the bulk capacitor 83 is charged only from terminal 81 through diode 78 to conductor 72.

Accordingly, Chen neither teaches nor discloses applying a charging current to an energy storage capacitor of a valley fill circuit solely from a winding in an inverter circuit to charge the energy storage capacitor to a predetermined voltage level.

Claim 44 depends from claim 43. Since claim 43 should be patentable in light of the arguments above, claim 44 should likewise be patentable.

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Regarding claim 53, Chen neither teaches nor discloses an inverter circuit having a single controllably conductive device as required by the claim.

In contrast, Chen teaches an inverter circuit 32 having a series-connected pair of controllably conductive devices, namely, switches 90 and 92 (figure 2, column 7, lines 29 through 32).

Further, Chen neither teaches nor discloses inherently limiting electronic ballast input current in-rush by the operation of a single controllably conductive device.

Regarding claim 24, claim 24 depends from claim 13, which as described above should be found patentable. Accordingly, claim 24 should also be patentable. Regarding claims 54 and 55, they depend from claim 53, which as explained above should be found patentable. Accordingly, claims 54 and 55 should also be found patentable.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the abstract, a new abstract has been provided.

Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention an Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 12, 2003. The Examiner is requested to review the Information contained in that submission and make it of record herein. A copy of the Information Disclosure Statement is attached. It is noted that an error appeared in the serial number. The Examiner should see that the Information Disclosure Statement becomes part of this file.

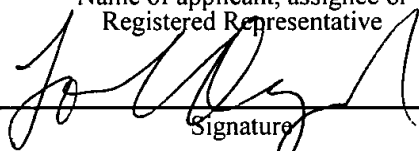
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In view of the above, Applicant submits that all claims in this application are now in condition for allowance, prompt notification of which is requested.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on May 5, 2003:

Louis C. Dujmich

Name of applicant, assignee or
Registered Representative

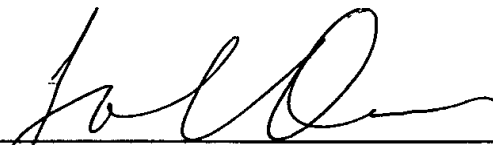


Signature

May 5, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: IDS with references

Abstract

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